



## DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2320 South DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901

**To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors**

**For Immediate Release: Contact Anne Fitzgerald**  
March 3, 2008 **800.282.8685 (DE only)**  
**302.698.4520**  
**302.242.4092 (Cell)**

Number of pages: 1

### **It's National Weights and Measure's Week! DDA W & M staff protects consumers in the marketplace**

Do you shop for groceries? Do you drive a car or truck? Do you heat your home? Are you in the market for new tile? In Delaware, if you drive a car, heat your home, buy packaged meat, weigh fresh produce at the grocery store, etc., a Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) Weights and Measures employee has served you. They inspect scales, gas pumps, home fuel delivery vehicles, propane dealers, milk meters, wire-and-cordage measuring devices, parking meters, much more.

A little error here and a little error there can add up to a big loss overall. In 2005, National Conference of Weights and Measures, a professional organization, estimated that an error of slightly more than 1 tablespoon per 5 gallons at the gas pump equaled a charge of \$125 million annually that, depending on the direction of the error, is borne either by consumers or retailers. Think about today's gas prices!

Have you ever picked something up on the store shelf and been charged a different price at the register? Fairness in the marketplace is the top priority for the DDA W & M staff. They routinely perform price verifications that determine the integrity of the scanning process in stores.

During the past fiscal year (Jul. 2006 through June 2007), Delaware W&M's 7 inspectors:

- inspected 3291 small scales, 203 large scales, and 232 livestock/vehicle scales
- inspected 11,794 gas pumps
- inspected 236 fuel oil meters and 145 LPG meters
- inspected 75 grain moisture meters
- inspected 12,949 lots
- performed 222 price verification inspections

"I am very proud of DDA's Weights and Measure's staff. They are out there every business day protecting Delaware's consumers," said Michael Scuse, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture. "If you think that you are a victim of fraud involving weight, volume, quantity or price in the marketplace, we want to know. Please do not hesitate to contact the Delaware Department of Agriculture."

For more information and/or to contact the DDA Weights and Measures Section:

Phone: (800) 282-8685 (DE only)

(302) 698-4500

Fax: (302) 697-6287

E-Mail: [dda.w&m@state.de.us](mailto:dda.w&m@state.de.us)

###